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31 January 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on East Asia for the Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific Affairs, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

1. On 31 January 1984 the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, was briefed jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the State Department on current developments in East Asia. The briefing took place in Room H-139, the Capitol, from 2:30 to 4:15 p.m. A transcript was taken.

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2. Present from the Subcommittee were:

Stephen Solarz, Chairman
Harry M. Reid
Joel Pritchard

CIA was represented by:

David Gries, NIO/EA
 ANIO/EA

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DIA was represented by:

Defense Intelligence Officer for East Asia

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State was represented by:

Natale H. Bellocchi, INR
Robert Carroll, Analyst
Paula Causey, Analyst

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3. Prior to the briefing, each of the participants supplied the Subcommittee with written responses to questions posed several weeks in advance of the briefing. The oral presentations were based on these questions. Mr. Bellocchi covered the Philippines. He discussed the fundamental weakening of the Marcos regime following the assassination of Benino Aquino in August 1983. He stated that President Marcos does not face imminent danger of an overthrow, but his power base is likely to continue to erode, and his long-term prospects are not bright. He said that Marcos's health problems raise additional questions about his longevity. Mr. Bellocchi also discussed the unhealthy economic climate in the Philippines. [redacted]

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4. [redacted] briefed on Korea, covering North Korea's diplomatic initiative for unconditional talks with South Korea and the US regarding a possible withdrawal of US troops from South Korea and a nonaggression pact between the North and South. Chinese interest in such a development as well as North Korea's motivation and intentions were also covered. [redacted]

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5. Mr. Gries briefed on China, Taiwan, and Japan. He covered Deng Xiaoping's goals, China's economic trends and its foreign policy goals, including the recent visit of Premier Zhao Ziyang to the US. The future of Hong Kong and Beijing's attitude toward unification with Taiwan were also discussed. Mr. Gries pointed out that China continues to insist on Taiwanese recognition of Chinese sovereignty but would allow Taiwan to keep its own social, economic, educational, and military systems. With regard to Japan, Mr. Gries discussed the implication for the US of recent Japanese elections, indicating Prime Minister Nakasone's position was not as badly undermined as reported in the press. Mr. Solarz asked a question regarding rural support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and Mr. Gries agreed to provide a written response following the briefing. [redacted]

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6. [redacted] presented an overview of events in Indochina, including anti-Vietnamese resistance efforts in Kampuchea, Vietnamese tenacity, and the Kampuchean refugee flow into Thailand. [redacted]

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7. Following a question and answer period, the briefing ended without the anticipated coverage of narcotics issues involving both Southwest and Southeast Asian. Mr. Gries thanked the participants for their efforts.

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